

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-19 remain present in this application.

The specification and claims 1-16, 18 and 19 have been amended. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 9-11 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by SATO, U.S. Patent 6,885,222. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1 and 9 recite that the differential circuit and the first latch unit are both coupled between a first voltage (VDD) and a common node (COM), the first terminals of the first and second transistors (to receive differential input signals) are coupled to the common node (COM), and the second terminal of the first and second transistors are coupled to the nodes (R and S) of the first latch respectively.

As shown in Fig. 3 of Sato, the differential pair (11a and 11b) is coupled between the voltage VDD and the nodes N1a and N1b of the latch (11a, 11b, 12a and 12b), rather than between the voltage VDD and the common node N2. Thus, the node to receive the voltage is the first voltage as claimed in claims 1 and 9, rather than the common node.

Further, the first and second terminals of the transistor 11a are coupled to the node N1a in the latch and the voltage VDD rather than the common node N2, and the first and second terminals of the transistor 11b are coupled to the node N1b in the latch and the voltage VDD rather than the common node N2. The differential pair (11a and 11b) and the differential pair of claims 1 and 9 of the present application are different.

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It is respectfully submitted that Sato does not teach all of the limitations recited in independent claims 1 and 9, as well as their dependent claims, and therefore fails to teach or suggest the flipflop of the present invention. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC 102(b) rejection are respectfully requested.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that the Examiner considers claims 2-8 and 12-16 to contain allowable subject matter, and claims 17-19 to be allowable. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims should be in condition for allowance.

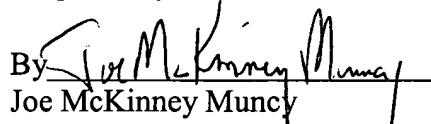
Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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